

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1215560-1

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont *ALB*

DATE: 1/21/59

FROM : S. B. Donahoe *SD*

9317

SUBJECT: MATTERS- CUBA  
CUBAN POLITICAL SITUATION

Tolson  
Boardman  
Belmont  
Mohr  
Nease  
Parsons  
Rosen  
Tamm  
Trotter  
W.C. Sullivan  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

In connection with data supplied Director initially on 1/14/59 regarding Cuban situation on basis of indication Under Secretary of State Herter might discuss situation with Director, it is noted we pointed out Bureau informant in October, 1958, visited headquarters of Raul Castro (Fidel Castro's brother) in Cuba. We indicated informant obtained valuable intelligence data which was promptly made available to interested agencies.

In amplification of this, this informant is [redacted] who was developed by Miami Office. He went to Cuba on 10/29/58. On his return from trip he gave detailed account of Raul Castro's landing field, equipment, facilities and activities at his headquarters. He found Raul Castro's main problem was lack of ammunition and learned that Castro desired July 26 Movement leader in Miami who accompanied informant to concentrate on procurement of ammunition and furnished leader \$2,000 for this purpose. This July 26 leader with Castro set up system whereby small plane would be flown from Florida to Cuba with 500-600 pounds of ammunition and return with another pilot and additional \$2,000. This procedure worked out so that if plane confiscated small amount of ammunition and money would be lost. Raul Castro specified type of ammunition needed and said he had 6 pilots available for operation. Informant also learned that Castro's headquarters anticipated that DC-3 plane would be stolen, discovered they already had papers for plane to be stolen, and learned that after stolen plane would be repainted, flown to U.S., and legally registered with Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA). This information related by informant upon return was received 11/13/58, analysed and presented in memorandum 11/18/58 and disseminated 11/19/58 to State Department, [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

b7E

[redacted] Customs, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Civil Aeronautics Administration, the Department and intelligence branches of Army, Navy and Air Force. (97-3244-295, 303)

ACTION:

EX-135

REC-15

109-12-318-409  
3 FEB 2 1959

This is for the information of the Director.

- 1 - Belmont
- 1 - Donahoe
- 1 - Mossburg
- 1 - Nasca
- SBD:bbr
- (5)

3/31/99

60267118/001103

A. H. Belmont

January 28, 1959

S. B. Donahoe

### THE CUBAN SITUATION

By memorandum January 24, 1959, a brief on the Cuban situation was submitted for the Director's information in connection with his luncheon meeting with Under Secretary of State Christian A. Herter at 1 p.m., Thursday, January 29, 1959.

At 9:30 this morning our Liaison Section learned that Roy R. Rubottom, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, one of the original invitees to the luncheon meeting, will be unable to attend since he must make a speech before some organization (name unknown) in New York City which is bestowing an award upon Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Taking Mr. Rubottom's place at the luncheon meeting will be his assistant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William P. Snow.

All material relating to the Cuban situation received in the Division since the brief was completed, up to and including material available through the close of business January 27, has been reviewed and pertinent data incorporated into revised pages for insertion into the brief.

The revised pages include a squib on William P. Snow; results of interview with Mariano Faget y Diaz, former head of Batista's Bureau for Repression of Communist Activity; details concerning recent trips to Cuba by Mrs. Catherine Taaffe and Miami informant [redacted] press reports on alleged efforts by Castro to rid his regime of communists; communist background on an additional Castro supporter; further interest by Communist Party, U.S.A., in Cuban matters; potential political ramifications in Latin America as a result of the Cuban revolution; and latest developments in the Haitian situation.

#### ACTION:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/31/99

BY 60267 MS/ACE/KOB

It is recommended, if the Director approves, the revised pages, which are attached, be inserted in his brief.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont WRW:bcf  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease (8)  
Parsons cc - 1 - Holloman  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Clayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

cc - 1 - Wannall  
1 - Nasoa  
✓ 1 - Yellow File Copy

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revised pages inserted  
1-28-59  
wau

MAIL ROOM ☐  
Enclosures

109-12-210-410

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont from Mr. Donahoe

Re: THE CUBAN SITUATION

We have placed a pencilled line along the right-hand margin of these pages wherever additional material has been added, in order that the Director may quickly see exactly what has been added.



Memorandum to Mr. Belmont from Mr. Donahoe

Re: THE CUBAN SITUATION

We have placed a pencilled line along the right-hand margin of these pages wherever additional material has been added, in order that the Director may quickly see exactly what has been added. .



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: January 28, 1959

FROM : S. B. Donahoe

SUBJECT: THE CUBAN SITUATION

Tolson —  
Boardman —  
Belmont —  
Mohr —  
Nease —  
Parsons —  
Rosen —  
Tamm —  
Trotter —  
W.C. Sullivan —  
Tele. Room —  
Holloman —  
Gandy —  
DeLoach —  
McGuire —  
W.C. Sullivan —

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ACTION: ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/30/99 BY 60267WJ/BCJ/MB

REC-76

25 JAN 30 1959

It is recommended, if the Director approves, the revised pages, which are attached, be inserted in his brief.

WRW:bcf Bcf  
(8)  
cc - 1 - Holloman  
1 - Belmont  
1 - D. E. Moore  
1 - Donahoe

WILL Be done AFTER  
DIRECTOR APPROVES.

cc - 1 - Wannall  
1 - Nasca  
1 - Yellow File Copy

Enclosures

66 FEB 4 1959

See page 2

mess  
OK  
done

Political Matters - Cuba

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

January 22, 1959

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*file*

The appointment for a luncheon  
meeting with Under Secretary  
of State Herter and his group  
on Thursday, January 29th, has  
been confirmed.

Miss [ ] of the Under Secretary's  
Office, asks that Mr. Hoover come directly  
to Mr. Herter's Office for the engagement.

The luncheon will be held in the dining room  
which she said was across the hall from the  
Under Secretary's office.

hwg

cc - Mr. Holloman and Telephone room

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/31/99 BY 60267MS/BCE/KOB

*See that I have  
a brief (completed)  
promptly*

REC-92

MEMO DONAHUE  
TO BELMONT  
1-24-59

*109-120210-412*  
23 FEB 3 1959

SBD:bbr  
66 FEB 4 1959

b6  
b7C

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

January 22, 1959

11:00 am

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_

Miss [redacted] in the office of Under Secretary of State Herter telephoned to ask if Mr. Hoover will be free on Thursday, January 29, to be the key guest at a luncheon meeting in the Under Secretary's dining room, at 1:00 pm.

She said there will be present [redacted] General Swing; a representative from Customs; the Assistant Secretary in Charge of Latin American Affairs; the Head of Security, and a few others, and the topic of the meeting will be the matter which was discussed when Mr. Hoover and Mr. Herter met this week.

Miss [redacted] asked to be called and advised if, or not, Mr. Hoover can do this.

hwg

cc - Mr. Holloman and Telephone room.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/31/99 BY 602107 NLS/BUE/FB

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*I will be able to attend.*  
*109-12 210-413*

REC- 92

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Political matters - Cuban

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REC-39 109-12-212-416

EX-116

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DO-7

FROM

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
Mr. W. C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

See Me \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
 Note and Return \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
 Prepare Reply \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
 For Your Recommendation \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
 What are the facts? \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Remarks:

NCT RECORDED

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60 FEB 5

1959

# Saga of Armed Jalopies

By BOB CONSIDINE

**H**AVANA: The victorious Castro forces got their tanks in a round-about way. When 50 of them whirled and rattled into Havana it marked the end of what surely must be a record for distance covered by such hardware.

At the end of World War II the British gave the Egyptian army these light Stag-hounds, as they are called. They were hopelessly obsolete in armor and firepower, but they looked formidable enough to the army of King Farouk. Well, what with one thing and another, Farouk blew and now the tanks belonged to Gen. Naguib. Soon after that, they were Nasser's.



CONSIDINE

When the Israeli army invaded the Sinai Peninsula, there they stood—these armed jalopies—but they hardly raised their 20 millimeter voices. Their crews surrendered or fled. Now the tanks belonged to Israel, and back to Israel they rumbled when the U. S. called off that war by a democratic vote of one.

Israel took a second look at the venerable junk and began seeking a buyer. When the U. S. cut off military aid to Batista, the customer was instantly apparent. But the deal wasn't as simple as one might expect. The tanks were first sold to dictator Somosa of Nicaragua. He prepared to sell them to Batista at a nice profit in which a New York middleman shared.

But wait. The Castro forces in the hills got wind of the deal and reacted with the only weapon then at their command.

Several of their undercover men in Havana made a sudden and furtive call on Count Miguel D'Escota, Nicaraguan Ambassador to the Court of St. Fulgencio. They had a simple message for him. It said, "If your country sells those tanks to Batista, we'll kill you. Understand?"

The Count understood with sharp clarity. He fervently relayed the information to his foreign office and was able to assure the rebel group, the next time they called on him, that Nicaragua would never, never, never dream of

selling the tanks to the scourge of the Castro movement.

That same day, while motoring past an El Mariel pier, Count D'Escota noticed a freighter flying his country's flag. He paused to see what his beloved country was importing into Cuba. The rusty scow was unloading the 50 tanks, of course.

"Home, Jaime!" Count D'Escota ordered. He stopped scarcely long enough to pack a shirt and then flew off to Miami and put up at that obscure little hideaway named the Fontainebleau Hotel. All was serene for a few days. His chauffeur arrived from Havana with the new Cadillac. Life went on.

Then, a phone call. "Wherever you are, we'll get you," a voice said, and hung up. The voice wore a beard.

"To hell with this job!" cried the distressed victim of the international arms business. Diplomacy had lost a jewel.

The tanks were sent to Santa Clara for the decisive battle of the Cuban revolution. There, intact, they were captured by Castro's 1st Army, commanded by the Argentine doctor, soldier of war, and well-known leftist, "Che" Guevara. And Castro rode one into town.

\* \* \*

MEMBERS OF THE American Bar Association who were invited by Dr. Castro to sit in on the trial of Maj. Jesus Sosa Blanco at the Sports Palace last week are still somewhat unnerved. There were, let us say, a few opportunities for the defense to ask a mistrial.

For example, the president of the tribunal, the judge, led things off impartially by calling the prisoner a murderer, thief and assassin. One witness's testimony was interrupted by a prosecutor who bawled, "I call for the death penalty to be imposed immediately. There is no need for further witnesses."

On another occasion, Sosa Blanco's court-assigned lawyer inquired earnestly, "But how do we actually know these bodies were found and that this man killed the people?" The answer came from the judge himself. He said, "When the tribunal says there were bodies found and he killed them, there were bodies found and he killed them. Now proceed."

(Hearst Headline Service)



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"You s

George S.

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Mirror of Your Mind:

## Looking for Parental Love

107-12-210-417

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Legal Attache, Havana

January 23, 1959

Director, FBI (109-12-210)

9335

FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA

As result of successful overthrow of Batista regime in Cuba on 1/1/59, Fidel Castro, Cuban revolutionary leader, has emerged as a self-appointed leader of the masses in Latin America. His obvious fanaticism points strongly to possibility that he may have dreams of leadership in Latin America, along lines of Nasser's recent moves in Middle East, to use the impetus of the Cuban revolution as a motivating force in precipitating agitation in other Latin American countries and thereby welding together a sphere of influence in that area in which he would be the predominating force.

This conclusion is strengthened by revelation at meeting of U. S. Intelligence Board on 1/27/59 of contents of Army attache report from Venezuela summarizing Castro's activities while there during period 1/23-25/59. Report reflected Castro made bitter attack on U.S. policies during visit and publicly charged U.S. with intervening in favor of dictators since Cuba became independent. He urged an international campaign against remaining Latin American dictators, emphasized a call for unity of "democratic" nations of Latin America with Cuba and Venezuela in forefront to provide defense from dictators at home, as well as from encroachments of alien interests. He repeatedly urged unity against regimes in Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Paraguay.

During same speeches in Venezuela he called for "liberation" of Puerto Rico from U.S. In this regard "El Mundo," Havana newspaper, reported that before a press conference on 1/22/59 Castro said he was an admirer of Albizu Campos (self-styled President of Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico, who is presently incarcerated in hospital) and favored independence of Puerto Rico.

Trend evidenced here points to possibility that Castro may attempt to act as crusader against dictatorial and military governments in Latin America, using as issues

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LEGAL  
COMM-FBI

- Loach
- McGuire
- C. Sullivan
- Tolson
- Boardman
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Nease
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- Clayton
- Tele. Room
- Holloman

- 1 - Mexico
- 1 - Rio de Janeiro
- 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (route thru for review)
- 1 - 109-NEW (Potential Political Ramifications in Latin America as Result of Cuban Revolution)

SBD:bbr  
(14)  
FEB 5 1959

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9336

Letter to Legal Attache, Havana  
 Re: Foreign Political Matters - Cuba  
 109-12-210

fact that such governments represent "vested interests," suppress civil liberties, use "strong arm" tactics and do not represent "the people." In any such crusade the Castro bloc could be anticipated to include Cuba, Venezuela and possibly Costa Rica aligned against Dominican Republic, Haiti, Paraguay and Nicaragua.

While there is no indication as yet that Castro will attempt to pull British Guiana, a British possession, into his orbit, its mere existence as neighbor of Venezuela and its political make-up point to fact that it could be slated for possible alliance with Castro. In British Guiana there is an extreme left-wing political party (Peoples Progressive Party) in command headed by Dr. Cheddi Jagan, who is also Prime Minister. His wife, Janet Rosenberg Jagan, has record of former communist affiliations in U.S.

While not directly related to Castro's aims at this time, the political situation in Mexico and other Latin-American countries cannot be overlooked since agitation for political upheaval thrives and expands in an atmosphere where a government in the Western Hemisphere has been overthrown as result of a successful revolution.

It is absolutely imperative that our Legal Attaches keep on top of situations of this type developing in their areas. Communist groups can be expected to actively and militantly encourage agitation. While full picture of communist influence in Castro movement in Cuba did not emerge until after fall of Batista, this is a gap which must be filled by aggressive attention to problem.

It is incumbent upon our Legal Attaches to keep Bureau advised on a continuing basis of identities of key figures, inside and outside existing governments which are likely targets of revolutionary overthrow, actively engaged in revolutionary activities or likely to provide or assist influential positions in the event of successful overthrow.



9337

Letter to Legal Attache, Havana  
Re: Foreign Political Matters - Cuba  
100-10-210

of existing governments. Bureau is particularly interested in key figures and organizations having communist backgrounds or leanings with specific information as to whether there is any indication that there are supporters or affiliated groups active in the United States in their behalf. Similarly, in those countries where a dictatorial or military-type regime exists or where an ostensibly democratic form of government prevails, it is essential that the identities of chief political figures within the government be determined and information provided as to any record of communist affiliation or leaning in their background.

The Bureau desires that each Legal Attache thoroughly analyze this situation in his area and submit results thereof in form suitable for dissemination within 30 days of receipt of this communication. Urgent data received during this period should be submitted as received. After initial 30-day analysis, data should be submitted on continuing basis as acquired. For the purpose of uniform collection and processing, the title "Foreign Political Matters" followed by the name of the country involved should be utilized with copies designated for other Bureau files in connection with which active inquiries are being pursued. Each analysis submitted should deal with a separate country and each Legal Attache should bear in mind the necessity to acquire and submit data along this line regarding countries outside his area where activities of opposition individuals or groups may be centered in his area. For example, activities of Dominican groups in Mexico would be submitted by Legal Attache, Mexico, under the caption "Foreign Political Matters - Dominican Republic."

A separate communication has been sent to Legal Attaches receiving this communication and certain domestic offices as to the Puerto Rican situation.